

ClaimsWhat is claimed is:

1 1. In a World Wide Web (Web) communication network with  
2 user access via a plurality of data processor controlled  
3 interactive receiving display stations for displaying  
4 received Web documents accessible from database sources  
5 on the Web, a system for simplifying the Uniform Resource  
6 Locators (URLs) displayed for each received Web document  
7 comprising:

8 service provider means for accessing Web documents  
9 for said receiving display stations responsive to user  
10 requests;

11 Web database source servers, responsive to service  
12 provider requests including:

13 means for accessing requested Web documents  
14 from said Web database sources, and

15 means for defining the URLs for said accessed  
16 Web documents to include a URL domain section and a  
17 URL path portion within the database source; and

18 means in said service provider to convert the  
19 original URLs of said accessed Web documents to include a  
20 domain section specifying the service provider's domain  
21 and a path portion within said service provider's domain  
22 simpler than the original URL path portion.

1 2. The Web network of claim 1 wherein said path portion  
2 in said converted URL is shorter than the path portion in  
3 the original URL.

1 3. The Web network of claim 1 wherein said means for  
2 defining the URLs for said accessed Web documents  
3 dynamically generate said URL path portion.

1 4. The Web network of claim 1 wherein:  
2 said means for converting said original URLs are  
3 optional; and  
4 further including means enabling an authorized user  
5 to activate said optional means for converting said  
6 original URLs.

1 5. The Web network of claim 4 further including means in  
2 said service provider to charge a user a fee for  
3 activating said means for converting an original URL.

1 6. The Web network of claim 5 wherein said user  
2 activating said means for converting is a host of a Web  
3 database source defining the original URL.

1 7. The Web network of claim 1 further including:  
2 means in said service provider for respectively  
3 reconverting said converted URLs back to the original  
4 URLs;  
5 whereby Web document requests directed to said  
6 converted URLs will respectively be transmitted through  
7 the service provider to the database sources on the Web.

1 8. In a Web communication network with user access via a  
2 plurality of data processor controlled interactive  
3 receiving display stations for displaying received Web  
4 documents accessible from database sources on the Web, a  
5 method for simplifying the URLs displayed for each  
6 received Web document comprising:

7 accessing Web documents through service providers  
8 for said receiving display stations responsive to user  
9 requests;

10 accessing requested Web documents from Web database  
11 source servers, responsive to service provider requests;

12 defining the URLs for said accessed Web documents to  
13 include a URL domain section and a URL path portion  
14 within the database source; and

15 converting, in said service provider, the original  
16 URLs of said accessed Web documents to include a domain  
17 section specifying the service provider's domain and a  
18 path portion within said service provider's domain  
19 simpler than the original URL path portion.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said path portion in  
2 said converted URL is shorter than the path portion in  
3 the original URL.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein said URLs for said  
2 accessed Web documents are dynamically generated.

1 11. The method of claim 8 wherein:

2 said step of converting said original URLs is  
3 optional; and

4 further including step of enabling an authorized  
5 user to activate said optional means for converting said  
6 original URLs.

1 12. The method of claim 11 further including the step of  
2 enabling the service provider to charge a user a fee for  
3 activating said step of converting an original URL.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said user activating  
2 said step of converting is a host of a Web database  
3 source defining the original URL.

1 14. A computer program having code recorded on a  
2 computer readable medium for simplifying the URLs  
3 displayed for each received Web document in a Web  
4 communication network with user access via a plurality of  
5 data processor controlled interactive receiving display  
6 stations for displaying received Web documents accessible  
7 from database sources on the Web comprising:

8 service provider means for accessing Web documents  
9 for said receiving display stations responsive to user  
10 requests;

11 Web database source servers, responsive to service  
12 provider requests including:

13 means for accessing requested Web documents  
14 from said Web database sources, and

15 means for defining the URLs for said accessed  
16 Web documents to include a URL domain section and a  
17 URL path portion within the database source; and

18 means in said service provider to convert the  
19 original URLs of said accessed Web documents to include a  
20 domain section specifying the service provider's domain  
21 and a path portion within said service provider's domain  
22 simpler than the original URL path portion.

1 15. The computer program of claim 14 wherein said path  
2 portion in said converted URL is shorter than the path  
3 portion in the original URL.

1 16. The computer program of claim 14 wherein said means  
2 for defining the URLs for said accessed Web documents  
3 dynamically generate said URL path portion.

1 17. The computer program of claim 14 wherein:  
2 said means for converting said original URLs are  
3 optional; and  
4 further including means enabling an authorized user  
5 to activate said optional means for converting said  
6 original URLs.

1 18. The computer program of claim 17 further including  
2 means in said service provider to charge a user a fee for  
3 activating said means for converting an original URL.

1 19. The computer program of claim 18 wherein said user  
2 activating said means for converting is a host of a Web  
3 database source defining the original URL.

1 20. The computer program of claim 14 further including:  
2 means in said service provider for respectively  
3 reconvertng said converted URLs back to the original  
4 URLs;  
5 whereby Web document requests directed to said  
6 converted URLs will respectively be transmitted through  
7 the service provider to the database sources on the Web.